

Lesson 7

Daniel's Vision Of the Four Beasts

Daniel 7 (except verses 9-10, 13-14)

Between Daniel 6 and 7, we come to the major break in the book of Daniel. Daniel is both historical and apocalyptic. Chapters 1-6 are historical, and chapters 7-12 are apocalyptic. These prophetic chapters are not in chronological order, but the first verse of each chapter tells us where it fits into the timeline. We will explore this along the way.

It is important to remember when Daniel gave these prophecies in the 6th century B.C., all the prophecies were yet future. None had been fulfilled. With the passing of time, many have been exactly fulfilled. We await the fulfillment of the remaining prophecies. Because God is sovereign and in control, we know that they too will be fulfilled exactly as the others have been—exactly as foretold.

These prophetic chapters are very difficult to understand. Just work through the questions as best you can, and do not get discouraged. Remember that even Daniel did not understand all that he saw!

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and teach you His precepts.

Before you start the questions for this week, take some time to read through Daniel 7. In your Bible place brackets around verses 9-10 and 13-14. We will focus on these verses in our next lesson.

1. Find the occurrence of Daniel's vision/dream recorded in Chapter 7 on your timeline on page 77. Approximately how old was Daniel at this time? What would you title this vision?
2. Revelation 17:15 gives an interpretation of what the great sea may mean (Daniel 7:2-3). Look it up and discuss.

“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.”

Daniel 7:18

3. Describe each of the four beasts in Daniel's vision.
 - ❖ The beast of Daniel 7:4
 - ❖ The beast of Daniel 7:5
 - ❖ The beast of Daniel 7:6
 - ❖ The beast of Daniel 7:7, 19, 23
4. What do you think: Do the beasts exist simultaneously or successively according to the context of Daniel?
5. What do these four beasts represent? Give a verse that substantiates your answer.
6. The fourth beast had ten horns. The book of Revelation talks about ten horns. What do you learn from Revelation 17:12-14?
7. Describe the little horn of Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-21, 24-25.
8. Most Biblical scholars agree that the little horn of Daniel is the "man of lawlessness" of II Thessalonians, and the "antichrist" of I John 2:18 and Revelation. What do the following verses teach about him?
 - ❖ II Thessalonians 2:1-10
 - ❖ Revelation 13:1-8
9. As you think of the image of a horn in the natural world, what do you think it may symbolize here?

10. From Daniel 7:11-12, what happens to the four beasts?

11. From the context of Daniel 7:20, is the little horn one of the ten or not?

12. Observe and discuss what Daniel 7 has to say about the saints (believers in the Lord Jesus Christ). See Daniel 7:18, 21, 22, 25, 27.

13. John talks about the saints in Revelation 6:9-11 and 7:14-17. Discuss what you learn from these verses.

14. Daniel 7:25 mentions a period of time. From the following cross-references how long is it: Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6 and 13:5-7?

15. This period of time is given a name elsewhere in the Bible. From the following cross-references what is the name: Matthew 24:21, Mark 13:19, and Revelation 7:14?

16. What was Daniel's personal reaction to these visions he was given? Site the verses and discuss.

17. As you look back over this lesson about Daniel 7, what do you want to remember?

18. Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them using the prayer exercise that is explained on page 81.

❖ Scriptures: **Job 42:2-3**

❖ Word or phrase:

❖ Amplification:

❖ Invitation:

Thoughts From Martha:

A lion with plucked wings, a lopsided bear, a four-winged-four-headed leopard, a ten-horned-terrifying beast and another horn that talks...say what? (Boy, ol' Daniel must have really eaten something spicy before bed!) A dream like that would certainly make anyone's spirit 'distressed within.' As my Dad used to say, "that's enough to make your toes curl!"

Studying this chapter (and Revelations) made me feel like I was raptured up and out of my safe little world of lunch boxes, laundry baskets, and makeup remover into an animated world of strange and fearsome beasts, of a dragon and a bad-mouthed horn ...with EYES no less!! No sooner did I find myself gaping at the awesome, scary creatures, when suddenly there appeared a river of fire and a throne ablaze. Enter stage left (or right) the Ancient of Days...a court sat, books were opened, and a judgment proceeded. All a heady conclusion that culminated with one final scene: the glorious appearance of the Son of Man to whom is given all glory and power and everlasting dominion. Hallelujah, hallelujah! Perfectly orchestrated, precisely timed, permanently sealed!

Those are only highlights amidst a sea of strange and confusing end-time minutia. Not only were my toes curling, but my head was spinning too. I don't even think timelines, flow charts, and a twelve-piece set of washable markers could begin to help me sort it all out. But what I DO know, is that even though most days I think my world is not much more than carpool lines, and phone calls, and putting out cats, it is really part of an enormous crescendo that has been building ever since fig leaves were man's first fashion statement. My life is part of a great, cosmic crescendo. One that will finally end in a dramatic act that'll blow anyone's socks off (no matter how many horns...or heads...or wings they have!)

Well, that puts a whole different spin on things. Chapter seven is a wonderful reminder of just how connected my life is to something bigger and grander: something that not only encompasses all of time (past, present, and future) but also includes a cast of thousands ... thousands upon thousands, and millions upon millions ... or should I just say, "myriads upon myriads!" Wow!

"But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come." Daniel 7:18

...and don't you forget it!!

Lecture Notes: